(b) the amount of funds released during the last three years and progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the amount have not been utilised fully during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Amount of Special Central Assistance allocated by the Planning Commission to the UP Government for the development of Hill Areas for the year 1997-98 stands at Rs. 225 crore - Rs. 217.07 crore from HADP and Rs. 7.93 crore from other Special Area Programme.

(b) The amount of Special Central Assistance released during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 stands at Rs. 197.06 crores, Rs. 225.00 crores and Rs. 225.00 crores respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up food Processing Industries in Uttar Pradesh

*412. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposals to set-up more food processing units in that State; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and un-organised sectors. Hence, the information relating to the number of food processing industries in the country, and Statewise, is not maintained centrally.

According to the Annual Survey of India (Ministry of Planning) for the year 1993-94, there were 2697 factories manufacturing food and beverages, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Ministry does not set up food processing units directly in any State. However, the Ministry under its plan schemes extends financial assistance to State Govt. Organisations etc. for setting up/expansion/ modernisation of food processing units.

Exploration Activity of MECL

*413. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the exploration activity of Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited with respect to Coal;

(b) to what applied use are the findings of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited put by the relevant Coal companies; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost more exploration in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) is carrying out exploration in respect of coal in the command area of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, etc.

MECL is carrying out exploration for Coal in Virgin areas also. As a result of exploration efforts by MECL, Coal Reserves of over 49 Billion Tonnes in over 370 blocks have been established.

(b) The exploration taken up by MECL on behalf of Ministry of Coal have increased the resource base in Coal India Lmited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited command areas. This helped in increasing the production of coal from 73 million tonnes annually during 1973-74 to a level of over 250 million tonnes in 1995-96.